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## CLAIMS

I Claim:

1. A method to protect assets within a defined region against the threat of fire, comprising the steps of:

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A) positioning aerial forest fire fighting assets within a range allowing the assets to reach and attack a surveyed fire anywhere within a periphery of one or more strategic assets within 60 minutes of issuance of an order to attack a fire;

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B) integrating available regional ground fire fighting assets to follow up initial forest fire aerial attacks;

C) continually surveying of the periphery of the strategic assets using one or more sensors, the periphery being at least ten miles in radius;

D) gathering surveillance data from sensors in a central command;

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E) analyzing surveillance data according to user defined algorithms and database data in the central command;

F) generating an alarm status in the central command based on comparison of the analysis of surveillance data with reference data;

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G) alerting the aerial forest fighting assets when the comparison justifies such alerting, such alerting being communicated by the central command;

1 H) initiating an order to aerial attack a detected fire using the aerial  
forest fighting assets, when the comparison justifies such  
order, such order being issued by the central command;  
I) alerting hierarchical superior fire fighting command and control  
5 assets when the comparison justifies such alerting, such  
alerting being communicated by the central command; and  
J) repeating steps C through I when the comparison justifies  
repeating the steps.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensor is an optical sensor to  
10 sense fire, glow or smoke.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the aerial forest fire fighting assets on  
quick reaction alert are positioned within a range allowing the assets to  
reach and attack a fire within 15 minutes of issuance of an order to attack a  
fire.

15 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the analysis of surveillance data by  
way of suitable algorithms and database data is performed by a central  
computing device.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the alerting and alarming and ordering  
is initiated and executed by a central computing device.

20 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include at least  
part of a municipality.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include high value  
assets.

- 1           8.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include military assets.
- 9.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include industrial assets.
- 5           10.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include commercial assets.
- 11.The method of claim 1 wherein the aerial fire fighting assets are suitable for use in urban areas and augmented with ground fire fighting assets.
- 10          12.The method of claim 11 wherein the strategic assets include urban assets.
- 13.The method of claim 1 wherein the aerial fire fighting assets are replaced by ground fire fighting assets.
- 14.The method of claim 13 wherein the strategic assets include urban assets.
- 15          15.The method of claim 1 wherein the strategic assets include human life.
- 16.The method of claim 11 wherein the strategic assets include human life.
- 20          17.The method of claim 13 wherein the strategic assets include human life.